

**CLAIMS**

1. A method for maintaining reliability of a support to a Printed Circuit Board, the method comprising the steps:
  - 5 positioning elongated support members in an array layout to support a printed circuit board, wherein the elongated support members are configured and held within a base member, and
  - deflecting solder paste from interface between the
  - 10 elongated support member and the base member with a protective collar.
2. The method of Claim 1 wherein the protective collar is of molded rubber.
- 15 3. The method of Claim 2 further comprising the step of protecting the printed circuit board with the inclusion of a compliant contact area.
- 20 4. The method of Claim 3 wherein the step of protecting the printed circuit board is accomplished with a portion of the protective collar.
5. The method of Claim 1 wherein the protective collar is
- 25 included in the fabrication of the elongated support member.